

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11
TRSY-02 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0438
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 01290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, EI
SUBJECT: IRISH REPLY TO BREZHNEV ON ENHANCED RADIATION
WEAPONS

REF: DUBLIN 245

1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT FINALLY DELIVERED ITS REPLY
IN MOSCOW APRIL 14 TO THE BREZHNEV LETTER ON THE "NEUTRON
BOMB" (REFTEL). THE REPLY WAS DRAFTED BEFORE PRESIDENT
CARTER'S STATEMENT. MFA COUNSELOR MACKERNAN READ TO US
THE SHORT REPLY, WHICH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A)
AS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY WITH VERY LIMITED ARMAMENTS, IRELAND
HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OR DEPLOYMENT OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER MAJOR WEAPONS. (B) THE GOI
HAS ALWAYS DEPLORED THE EXISTENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND
WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM ABOLISHED. (C) THE GOI FAVORS
ANY EFFECTIVE STEPS TO LIMIT OR AVOID "NEW WEAPONS" AND
FAVORS GENERAL DISARMAMENT. (D) THE GOI FAVORS DETENTE
AND BELIEVES THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT
INCLUDES AN AGREEMENT TO LESSEN ARMAMENTS AND MILITARY
ACTIVITIES BY CSCE PARTICIPANTS "ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD".
(MACKERNAN SAID THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO MEAN AFRICA, AND
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HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS WILL UNDERSTAND IT THUS.)
(E) SPECIFICALLY ON NEUTRON WEAPONS THE GOI HOPES THAT
ALL COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THEM, AND OTHER
TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS, COULD
COME TO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT NOT TO DEPLOY THEM. (MACKERNAN
ASSERTED THAT THE CAREFULLY CHOSEN LANGUAGE IN THIS
PARAGRAPH SHOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO THE

SOVIETS.

2. MACKERNAN SAID THE GOI HAS NO PRESENT INTENTION OF
MAKING PUBLIC ITS REPLY TO BREZHNEV, BUT IT MIGHT BECOME
NECESSARY IN THE COURSE OF ANSWERING A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT IN THE
IRISH PARLIAMENT. SHANNON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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